

## REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 1-48 have been canceled without prejudice and substituted by new claims 49-65.

The independent claim of the new set of claims is the process claim 49 (former claim 44 combined with former claim 45).

"29" has been deleted in claim 49 (former claim 44).

Claim 50 is former claim 48. Claims 51 to 65 are former claims 29 to 43.

Claims rejections under 35 USC 112

a) Former claims 46 - 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

This rejection is respectfully traversed, for not having any object any more since former claim 46 has been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed now fulfils the requirements of 35 USC§112 §1.

b) Former claims 44 - 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 49 (former claim 44) has been amended to insert the main content of a positive process step as set forth in the description on page 1 lines 27 to 33 of the application :

"including any internal treatment according to which said composition (a composition comprising at least one cationic starchy material and at least one sulfonated starchy material) is totally or mainly distributed throughout the mass constituting the resulting plane structure, as well as any external treatment according to which said composition (a composition comprising at least one cationic starchy material and at least one sulfonated starchy material) is totally or mainly applied or retained on at least one of the two faces of the resulting plane structure".

It is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed now fulfils the requirements of 35 USC§112 §2.

Claims rejections under 35 USC 102 Novelty

Former claims 28-48 have been rejected in the Office Action under 35USC§102(b) as anticipated by GOSSET (5,129,989). By the present amendment, claims 28 - 48 have been withdrawn from examination without prejudice and have been replaced by claims 49 to 65. Claims 49-65 are pending.

This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the new submitted set of claims.

The prior art document GOSSET has been shown successfully in the Applicant's arguments filed 4/15/2003 to fail to describe the concept of **simultaneous** introduction of a composition comprising at least one cationic starchy material and at least one sulfonated starchy material.

This concept was to be included in the claims in the form of a concrete feature. The concept of "simultaneous introduction of a composition" being rather odd, the applicant respectfully submits the concept of introducing "a composition

*simultaneously* comprising at least one cationic starchy material and at least one sulfonated starchy material".

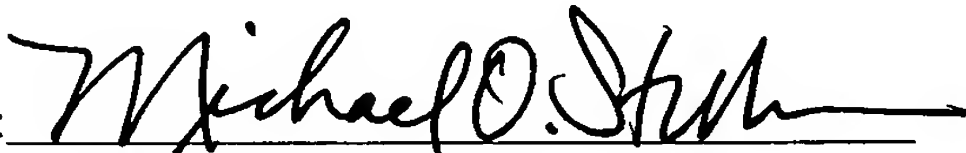
Hence the invention as claimed is new versus the document GOSSET and the invention as claimed is inventive versus the document GOSSET.

As a conclusion, it is hence respectfully submitted that the objection under 35USC§102(b) be withdrawn and that the Application is now in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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